



MEMORANDUM

Office of the Town Manager

To: Arts and Culture Commission

From: Christina Gilmore, Assistant to the Town Manager

Subject: Public Art Subcommittee-Veterans Memorial Proposal

Date: December 16, 2014

BACKGROUND

On November 4, the Town Council requested the Arts and Culture Commission to consider the proposed Veterans Memorial at the Civic Center in accordance with the Council-adopted Public Art Policies and Procedures, with a recommendation back to the Town Council by the Council's regularly scheduled meeting on January 20, 2015.

To date, the Commission has held four special meetings on the Veterans Memorial Project, November 12, November 20, December 4 and December 11. The special meetings held to date have been focused on establishing the special meeting schedules, the work plan, identifying the public process for consideration of this matter, reviewing the Town's adopted Public Art Policies and Procedures and receiving additional background information on the proposed memorial from Town staff and the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation of Los Gatos and hearing public comment about the proposed Veterans Memorial from interested stakeholders and members of the public.

DISCUSSION

At the December 4 and December 11 special meetings, the Commission began expressing and moving toward consensus on a several items related to the proposed memorial, most notably:

- Arbors and trellises on the upper deck are a good idea but need to be redesigned to match or integrate with the existing Civic Center architecture in terms of form and materials;
- Preferred locations for the memorial would be either the raised portion of the deck between the administrative and Police buildings, or the ivy and redwood grove, adjacent to the Civic Center lawn and in front of the New Museums of Los Gatos building; and
- The proposed statuary was not acceptable as presented, although there was divergence as to why (e.g., size/scale, materials, realism vs symbolic, artistry, "war" symbolism, and the multiplicity of elements including a figure, eagle and eternal flame representations); and
- Dependent on location, any statuary placed within the memorial should incorporate diversity in regards to gender and/or ethnicity; and

- Alterations to the Civic Center lawn via the proposed walkway from Main Street to the Civic Center upper deck are discouraged; and
- The proposed number of bas relief plaques on the exterior walls of the Administrative, Police and Museum buildings are not acceptable as presented; and
- The number of elements, symbols and types of materials as proposed are too many.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Action minutes from December 11, 2014
2. Memorandum from Staff
3. Written communication received as of 2:00 p.m. Monday, December 15, 2014
4. Elements and Location Decision Matrix
5. Additional Elements for Art Commission Consideration
6. Verbatim minutes from December 4, 2014

Distribution:

Arts and Culture Commission

Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation of Los Gatos

Friends of the Library

Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department

Museums of Los Gatos